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PAGE 01

KABUL 02030 102217Z

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INFO LOG-20

COPY-01 ADS-00

INR-12

EUR-20

SS-20

CIAE-20

CODE-00

A-01

MSC-01

NSC-20

NSAE-20

EA-00

L-03

TRSF-02

PM-12

PA-21

OMB-21

INRE-22

USIT-22

SF-20

SNF-01

C-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 743Z

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0223Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PASS: PEPR, PREL, UR, AF

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL POLITICAL MOVES FROM NAJIBULLAH

REF: KABUL 2201

1. (U) FULL TEXT OF NAJIBULLAH'S NOVEMBER 8 MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE IS CARRIED IN KABUL PRESS, NOVEMBER 8-9. IN ADDITION TO STEPPING BACK FROM PREVIOUS RESERVATION OF PRESIDENCY FOR PDPA (REFTEL), THE PDPA LEADER TANGLES OTHER OPENINGS IN FRONT OF THE OPPOSITION: A) HE INDICATES THAT THE PDPA WILL HOLD ON TO TWO POSIS -- PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND SUPREME COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES -- UNTIL "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE" STOPS AND CONDITIONS ARE PREPARED FOR DEPARTURE OF SOVIET FORCES (THAT IS, AN IMPLICIT POSSIBILITY IS OFFERED THAT THE PDPA MIGHT RELINQUISH THESE POSIS IF "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE" STOPS), AND B) HE SAYS, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT THE PDPA IS STUDYING, WITH A "POSITIVE" APPROACH, THE POSSIBILITY OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS HOLDING HIGH POSIS IN THE DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES.

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PAGE 02

KABUL 22030 102217Z

2. (C) COMMENT: NAJIBULLAH IS BACKTRACKING FROM SOME OF

HIS UNCOMPROMISING POSITIONS TAKEN AT THE RECENT PARTY CONFERENCE -- PROBABLY UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE REITERATES THAT THE PDPA WILL PRESERVE ITS ROLE AS VANGUARD AND ORGANIZER PARTY.

3. (C) THE NATURE OF HIS "GESTURE" ON THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ARMED FORCES' SUPREME COMMAND IS UNCLEAR. IF THE PDPA CONSTITUTION IS ENACTED AT THE UPCOMING LOYA JIRGA, THE SUPREME COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE VESTED IN THE NEW PRESIDENT AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL BE REPLACED BY A SUBSEQUENTLY ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IT MAY BE THAT NAJIB IS SUGGESTING EITHER THAT: A) THE CONSTITUTION

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EXEMPT

DAILY

NOT REOPENED INFO

FOI, LO or PA exemptions

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WILL NOT BE ADOPTED AT THE LOYA JIRGA, B) THE POWERS OF  
THE PRESIDENCY WILL BE CONSTRICTED (MAINTAINING SUPREME  
COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES UNDER A SEPARATE  
DEFENSE COUNCIL), AND/OR C) ELECTION OF A NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY WILL BE DEFERRED AS A "GESTURE" TO PERMIT  
LATER OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION, THEREBY PRESERVING FOR  
THE MEANTIME THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

*Baker*

END COMMENT.

8. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. GLASSMAN  
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